

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for activating personal protection means (RHS) as a function of at least one signal derived from at least one acceleration sensor (B), wherein a forward displacement (ΔS) is used as the at least one signal, which is compared to at least one threshold value surface, which is set as a function of a velocity decrease (ΔV) and a deceleration (Δa), and the personal protection means (RHS) are activated as a function of the comparison.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the forward displacement (ΔS) is compared to a first threshold value which is set as a function of the velocity decrease (ΔV), and is compared to a second threshold value which is set as a function of the deceleration (a), and the threshold value surface is simulated using the first and second comparisons.
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the threshold value surface is modified as a function of a signal of an applied external sensor system or of at least one characteristic value.
4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the threshold value surface is modified as a function of a crash type recognition and/or a crash severity recognition.
5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the threshold value surface is set as a function of a crash phase.
6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein, if a predefined velocity decrease is reached, a first number indicating whether the forward displacement has reached the threshold value surface is awaited.

7. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the forward displacement (ΔS) and/or the velocity decrease (ΔV) is/are additionally compared with a third threshold value.
8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the third threshold value is constant over time.
9. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the forward displacement (ΔS) is estimated using an expansion into a series.
10. Use of a control unit in a method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 9.